

JAN. 8 2004

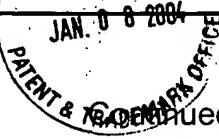


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Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal

Address to:
Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Application Number | 09/686,653 |
| Filing Date | October 10, 2000 |
| First Named Inventor | Shunpei Yamazaki, et al. |
| Group Art Unit | 2871 |
| Examiner Name | Mihn Ton |
| Attorney Docket Number | 07977-084002 |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s)
 - a. Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendment filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
 - i. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - ii. Other _____
 - b. Enclosed

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply | iii. <input type="checkbox"/> | Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) |
| ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) | iv. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other <u>1-Month Extension of Time</u> |
2. **Miscellaneous**
 - a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)
 - b. Other _____
3. **Fee** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.
 - a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1050
 - i. RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
 - ii. Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
 - iii. Other Any deficiencies 06-1050
 - b. Check in the amount of \$880 enclosed
 - c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | William G. Hughes, Jr. | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 46,112 |
| Signature | <u>William G. Hughes</u> | Date | <u>January 8, 2004</u> |